

POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule



The recycling pickup for Wednesday, Sept. 19 is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.

Sept. 15 cut-off for Korean medals

The Korean War Commemoration Committee is holding a dinner to honor living and deceased Korean War veterans at 6 p.m. Oct. 13 at the Richlin Ballroom, I-95 and Route 24 in Edgewood. Maj. Gen. Hwang, Republic of Korea military attaché, will present ROK service medals to those who submit a DD Form 214 by Sept. 15. The guest speaker will be retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Nels Running. Music will be provided by the 389th Army Band (AMC's Own). Tickets cost \$27 per person. Checks may be mailed to Town of Bel Air, 39 Hickory Avenue, Bel Air, MD 21014. For information, call Ray Astor, 410-939-1369 or Blair Cross, 410-893-8145.

Annual Hispanic Specialty Meal

The annual Hispanic Specialty Meal is set for dinner Sept. 18 in the dining facilities in the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas. During this event all military, family members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited to dine between 5:30 and 7 p.m. The standard meal rate of \$3.20 applies to any officer, enlisted member, and family member ranking Sergeant or above, Department of Defense civilians, retirees, and their guests. Additionally, the discount meal rate of \$2.65 applies to spouses and other family members of enlisted personnel in ranks private through specialist/corporal. The planned menu includes enchiladas, Mexican chicken, tacos, burritos, chili con carne, Spanish and steamed rice, seasoned red beans, refried beans, assorted breads and pastries, soft ice cream coffee, tea, milk and soda. Dining facilities in the AA are in buildings 429 and 4503. The EA dining facility is in building E-4225. For information call 410-306-1397 or 1398.

See SHORTS, page 2

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Page 3

Retirement planning

Page 4

Gas mask dash set for Sept. 20

Page 5

Harford County to remember POW/MIA's

Page 7

APG to participate in Pollution Prevention week

Page 8

Movies and library

Page 12

Community notes

Page 13

APG softball player brings home Army gold

Page 14

No immediate threat to installation

APG elevates security



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

A long line of vehicles wait at the Harford Boulevard gate of Aberdeen Proving Ground as Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security officers Mark Montgomery, left, and George Martin check a vehicle and driver entering the gate. Military installations around the world and state and federal offices around the country were in a state of heightened security after presumed terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. toppled the World Trade Center towers and damaged the Pentagon Tuesday. See page 14 for story.

Community Action Council covers issues

By Sheila Little
APG News

A meeting of the Aberdeen Proving Ground Community Action Council was held Aug. 16 in the auditorium of the Edgewood Area Conference Center. Col. Mardi U. Mark, garrison and deputy installation commander, presided over the meeting which covered business openings and closings, concert information, retiree announcements, storm cleanup and deer issues.

Jan Spellman, patient advocate for Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic announced that TRICARE for Life, a program for those over 65 who use TRICARE, begins Oct. 1. Information regarding the program and scheduled briefings will be announced in the APG News.

AAFES and commissary information

Steve Bielefeldt, Army and Air Force Exchange Service manager at APG, announced that while AAFES does not charge their customers state tax, during the recent state-sponsored tax-free shopping week, the exchange also participated by lowering prices on major appliances by five percent, the state tax rate. Customers should keep this in mind should the state decide to continue the tax-free week next year.

The Patio, a food stand near the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, will close at the end of September. More food choices for the Recreation Center are among the considerations to make up for the loss.

Churches Chicken is also planned to open in the future.

Toyland, located in the APG Main Exchange, will hold a grand opening on Sept. 15, so customers can get a jump on holiday shopping.

The Edgewood Area Officers' Wives Club will hold a hot dog sale in front of the commissary Sept. 29. Proceeds go to support organizations, charities and scholarships in the community.

Both the main exchange and the commissary often change their hours to free up additional parking for concert crowds. In addition, on the day of scheduled concerts, exchange and commissary patrons are warned to expect 100 percent identification card checks at the entrance of both facilities beginning one hour before the concert. The ID checks protect military privileges by guarding against use by those not entitled to shop at the facilities.

APG News

A weekend storm caused a lot of damage on the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas of APG. Since none of the staff live on the installation, the paper did not have pictures of the damage or cleanup. The APG News is very willing to consider photos taken by non-staff members, and will give photo credit for those published.

Retiree Day

The APG Recreation Center is the site for this year's Retiree Day, scheduled for Oct. 13. The event includes a morning of displays and information regarding health checks, shopping geared toward seniors, insurance and other benefits, along with visible command support, a

See CAC, page 6

Army Family Action Plan conference gives answers

By Sheila Little
APG News

Aberdeen Proving Ground's 2001 Army Family Action Plan symposium held in April at Top of the Bay, focused on finding solutions to issues brought forth by delegates. Afterward, agencies were given time to work on pertinent issues. This article is the third in a series addressing community concerns and agency resolutions.

Issue: Multiple Morale, Welfare and Recreation fees

Patrons must pay individual fees for each MWR-sponsored activity. This is an inconvenience and may cause financial hardship for some patrons.

Recommendation: Research and create a multi-use pass for all MWR activities.

Resolution: Each MWR activity currently charges fees for services rendered by season, time frame, or activity. MWR is looking into a multi-use pass that will consolidate fees and/or give discounts for additional service fees. However, it is considered premature to formulate such a

plan until the garrison work force is restructured under the new organization, and MWR moves into the Recreation Delivery System, due to begin at the start of fiscal year 2002. One step toward a multi-pass program, to be considered in the future, may be to establish a central registration office for all MWR programs.

Issue: Inadequate barracks security

There is easy access to the barracks. Some occupants expressed concerns about their safety and the security of personal property.

Recommendation: Issue master keys for day rooms, recreation rooms, and entrances and exits to only barrack's residents.

Resolution: Key cards for all permanent party barracks are mastered and secure. The cards are required for access to entrances and community kitchens. All individual rooms within the barracks include an additional key to secure personal property within the room. Personnel in the permanent party barracks that offer access via hard keys are being issued building entrance keys

See CONFERENCE, page 5



Photo by JAMES GATHANY Phila. CDCt

The *Cutex quinquefasciatus* mosquito, shown here, is proven to be a vector associated with transmission of the West Nile Virus.

Controlling mosquitoes controls West Nile Virus

By Capt. Linda McKinney-Wilson and
Milagros Borrero-Ruiz
KUSAHC

The West Nile Virus is a disease transmitted by mosquitoes. The virus, which usually occurs in birds, was first identified in this country in the summer of 1999. It is not known how the West Nile Virus was introduced to the United States.

Natural Transmission

Mosquitoes become infected with the West Nile Virus by feeding on infected birds that carry the virus in their blood. After 10 to 14 days, the mosquito becomes infected and can transmit the virus to humans and other animals when biting them to take blood.

During blood feeding, the mosquito injects the virus into the human or the animal, where it multiplies and causes illness. The virus is not transmitted from person to person. For example, you cannot get the virus from touching or kissing a person who has the disease or from a health care worker who has treated someone with the disease.

Symptoms

Most people infected with the West Nile Virus have no symptoms of illness, but some may become ill three to 15 days after the bite of an infected mosquito. Based on preliminary evidence, about one in four persons will have mild illness with fever, headache, and body aches, sometimes with skin rash and swollen

See VIRUS, page 4

Post Shorts

SHORTS, from front page

Schmit signs guide and catalog

Steve Schmit, the designer and owner of the Swords and Sabers of the Union Army display at the Ordnance Museum will autograph copies of the gallery guide and catalog on Sunday, Sep. 16, from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. A percentage of the proceeds from copies sold will be donated to the Ordnance Museum. The weapons will remain on display until Sep. 30. The exhibit also features an interactive game to test visitor knowledge of Civil War weapons. For more information, call 410-278-3602.

Thrift savings available for military

The Thrift Savings Plan is coming to the Uniformed Services starting Oct. 9. TSP, a retirement savings and investment plan, has been available to civilian employees of the Federal Government since 1987. It offers savings and tax benefits to participants similar to many private corporations’ “401(k)” plans.

For a unit briefing on the TSP, please contact Tricia Jewitt, financial readiness coordinator at the Army Community Service, 410-278-4372.

The TSP briefing contains information on enrollment, how to elect money into the various TSP accounts, how to designate a beneficiary, and benefits of the TSP.

Want to be a millionaire?

On Sept. 17 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. all Exceptional Family Members and their families are invited for an evening of fun, games, food and activities at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center. Bring a refreshment and RSVP to Reeshemah Bugg, EFMP coordinator at 410-278-7478 or 7474.

ABC-C’s new module eases access

The Army Benefit Center – Civilian’s web-based Employee Benefits Information System has a new point-of-entry module making it easier for employees to create their POE account.

As of Aug. 22, the point-of-entry application was modified, allowing existing EBIS users to enter their Social Security Numbers to access the information system, eliminating the need to create a separate user identification.

If passwords are forgotten, users can change passwords on-line without having to call ABC-C or the help desk. Users can also choose to be notified of successful or unsuccessful attempts of a change to a password. Presently, the email notification feature is not available. Users will be notified when this feature is activated.

There is still an eight-day waiting period between password changes. Also, if your password expires, you will receive a warning notice and you must reestablish your password. The same password cannot be used within a six-month period. If your password is soon to expire, you will also receive a warning notice that passwords must be changed every 90 days.

If you are a new user, you will need to create a POE account. Follow the guidance in creating your password. Examples are provided on the POE “Create Password” screen in the POE module. Additionally, ensure the correct information (service computation date, civilian pay plan, grade, step, etc.) is entered identifying you as a user of this application. Users may find additional information on the ABC-C home page under the “Announcement” section at www.ABC.army.mil.

“These POE changes will allow easier access to EBIS, thus enabling employees to become more self-sufficient in managing their Federal benefits and entitlements,” Kathy Cole, chief of the ABC-C, said.

Commercial Activities Hotline up and running

The CA telephone hotline at 410-278-7414, and CA email hotline at CA.Hotline@usag.apg.army.mil, are available to provide updates and answers to your questions concerning the CA Study. In addition, CA is now showing up as a choice on the first page of the APG Web site, www.apg.army.mil.

ABC-C website address changes

On Sept. 5 the ABC-C website address changed from <http://www.abc.army.mil> to <https://www.abc.army.mil> to allow Army personnel who are not coming from a .mil domain to be able to access the website.

Simply type the letter “s” after http and you will be able to gain access to the site. The ABC-C portion of our website still requires 40-bit encryption.

Call the ABC-C automated line at 1-877-276-9287 or the SWCPOC Help Desk at 1-785-239-2000 (DSN 856-2000) if you are experiencing difficulties accessing this website. (From an announcement posted on the Army Benefits Center-Civilian (ABC-C) website.)

Hispanic Cultural Workshop

The Hispanic Employment Program Committee is sponsoring a Hispanic Cultural Workshop in observance of Hispanic Heritage Month, Oct. 4 at 9 a.m. at the Edgewood Conference complex. Yolanda Maldonado, the Director of Hispanic Employment Program, Headquarters Department of the Army Equal Employment Opportunity Agency, will facilitate the Hispanic Culture Workshop.

The Aberdeen High School Latin Dancers will perform Merengue and Mambo dancing immediately following the workshop. The Latin Dancers have agreed to give dance lessons after their performance. The 389th Army Band (AMC’s Own) will have a Latin Combo playing from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. during which Latin food will be available to sample.


Maldonado will provide career counseling to anyone interested. The career counseling is by appointment only between 1:30 and 3 p.m. There will also be a Latin countries’ display to view at your leisure. Anyone with items from a Latin country is welcome to display their country’s articles.

If you wish to register for any of the above activities, or require special needs, please contact Cindy Sepulveda at 410-278-1131 or Joanne Holloway at 410-436-3628. Everyone is invited.

Pollution Prevention

Give leftover household hazardous products to someone who can use them (i.e., paints, pesticides, cleaning products, etc.)

New Hampshire
Department of
Environmental Services



Tutoring program needs volunteers

Army Community Service needs volunteers for APG’s tutorial program, to assist local secondary school students who are having difficulty in various subject areas.

Counselors from each school select students who need help, want help and can benefit from tutorial assistance. The school counselor informs the student’s parents of the program. The parents then contact the program coordinator who selects an appropriate tutor from the list of volunteers. The tutor then contacts the student’s family to set up a mutually agreeable place, preferably the student’s home, and to schedule the time for the session. Most tutors meet with their students 1 to 2 hours a week.

Anyone with knowledge in a particular area can help. No teaching experience is necessary to participate in this program, just a desire to help the youth of our communities. If you are willing to tutor, please contact: Laura Reich, Aberdeen Area ACS, 410-278-7474, or William Starke, Edgewood Area ACS, 410-436-2712.

ACS presents relocation workshop

Army Community Service Center presents the Easy Movin’ Workshop on Sept. 26 from 8 a.m. to noon. Call Tricia Jewitt, ACS, to register, 410-278-7474. Topics will include financial planning, relocation planning, pay and entitlements, exceptional family member concerns and more.

Meet The Arc

The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region is holding open house to provide the public with information regarding The Arc’s mission and vision, including a testimonial from an individual or family benefiting from their services. The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region assists people with developmental disabilities identify and pursue personally-valued lives. Attend an open house for one-hour Oct. 9 at 5:45 p.m., Oct. 10 at 7:45 a.m. or Oct. 10 at noon. For more information, call Elaine Orbino, 410-879-6785, ext. 350, fax to 410-893-3909 or visit the Web site at <http://www.arcncr.org>.

Learn to enrich your relationships

Army Community Service will offer Enrich Your Relationships classes to present the techniques of building relationships -- learning respect, communication, understanding and listening skills. Day and evening classes are forming. For more information, call Marie Mastracco, ACS, 410-278-7474 or 7478.

MCSC kicks off new year

If you are looking for a great way to get involved in the Aberdeen Proving Ground community, look no further than the Military and Civilian Spouses Club. Members can sign up Sept. 17 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at 2822-A Shandy Hall Road.

Membership in the MCSC is open to spouses (or surviving spouses) and members of the U. S. Armed Forces on active duty or retired, spouses or surviving spouses of Department of Defense civilians, and DoD civilians. The club provides a support system for its members, fosters community unity, broadens and enriches the lives of its members, and promotes community relations. Last year, MCSC raised more than \$7,000 for community programs and scholarships.

For more information, call Julie Koob, 410-297-6630, or Amy Peterson, 410-273-5961.

Mentors needed one hour per week

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Maryland is beginning a program to work with the Aberdeen area public schools matching adult mentors with children in one-on-one friendships. Volunteers are asked to meet with their “Little” for one hour per week, usually during lunchtime or after school on a set day throughout the school year. This provides a young person with a supportive adult friendship that helps him or her succeed.

For more information or to volunteer call Wendy Bohdel, 410-688-4985.

TRICARE for Life briefings

Kirk US Army Health Clinic will hold briefings on “TRICARE for Life” for all those beneficiaries 65 and over at the Post Theater. The dates and times are:

- Sept. 14 - 10 a.m. to noon
 - Sept. 18 - 6 to 8 p.m.
 - Sept. 19 - 10 a.m. to noon
 - Sept. 25 - 6 to 8 p.m.
- An additional briefing will be held at the Edgewood Conference Center Sept. 24, 10 a.m. to noon.

EAOWC holds hot dog sale Sept. 29

The Edgewood Area Officers’ Wives’ Club will sponsor a Super Hot Dog Lunch Sale Sept. 29 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the APG Commissary. For just \$1, lunch includes a hot dog, chips and soda. Stop by before shopping, between soccer games or on your way to the PX.

Youth dance classes

The Aberdeen Youth Center’s Dance Program has openings in several classes. Classes cost \$65 per year for eligible youths and \$70 for guests. All youths must be registered with CYS to participate in programs – the registration fee is \$15 per year. For more information or to register for dance classes, call Amie Pryzgoda, 410-278-7571. For more information on Aberdeen or Edgewood Youth Sports programs, call Bill Kegley, 410-278-2297.

ACS offers English class

Army Community Service Relocation Office will offer a free evening class, Adult English as a Second Language, for those just needing a refresher course, or for those with little English speaking and writing skills. The course is open to military personnel, APG civilians, retirees, and adult family members eighteen years and older. Classes are scheduled for Tuesday evenings from Sept. 18 to Oct. 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. at ACS Building 2754 on Rodman Road. All sessions are taught by an instructor from Harford Community College. To register, call Cheryl Harris, 410-278-7474 or 3137.

CWF sponsors tea party

The Civilian Welfare Fund is sponsoring a Tea Party at the Hays House, 324 S. Kenmore Avenue in Bel Air, Sept. 29 from 2 to 5 p.m. Presentations will be given on the “History of Tea” and “Language of the Fan.” Touring of the museum is welcomed and questions will be answered by costumed docents. Custom blended teas, iced tea punch, pastries, scones and finger sandwiches are included. The price is \$14 per person.

Please contact Angela Keithley or Jacqueline McKeever at 410-278-4603 or 4771 for reservations.

Within your reach

Get answers about how the Army is safely eliminating the mustard agent stockpile stored at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground.

For information, call or visit the Edgewood Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 1011B Woodbridge, Center Way, Edgewood, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., 410-676-6800, or visit Web site www-pmcd.apgea.army.mil.

APG News

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Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source.

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For advertising matters, call Homestead Publishing, 410-838-4400. Send articles or information for publication to the APG Public Affairs Office, Building 324, Second Floor, AMSSB-GIM, APG, MD 21005-5005; call the editor at 410-278-1150, DSN 298-1150; fax it to 410-278-2570; or e-mail it to editor@usag.apg.army.mil.

Deadline for copy is Thursday at noon for the following Thursday’s paper.

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PET OF THE WEEK



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Everybody loves fluffy playmates and the Post Veterinary Treatment Facility is overflowing with them. They have more than a dozen kittens, cats and dogs in need of new homes. Call or stop by the VTF today to adopt your new playmate. You do not have to be active-duty military to adopt a pet. For information, call 410-278-4604.

ABC-C recommends planning for retirement

If you are planning to retire during late 2001 or early 2002, the Army Benefits Center-Civilian recommends starting the process now.

Statistically, many employees opt to retire during the months of November, December, January, and February. Although it may not seem close, now is the time to initiate your retirement process.

For Army employees, all retirements are processed through the ABC-C. The ABC-C strongly suggests you initiate your retirement process by submitting your application about 120 days in advance of your retirement date. This is especially true if you are planning to retire during the upcoming months. As retirement is not an “electronic” process, you must complete a retirement package and mail to the ABC-C. Following the steps outlined below will help ensure a smooth transition into retirement:

Within a year of your retirement, you should obtain an annuity estimate or a Personal Statement of Benefits. You may accomplish this by clicking on the following link: www.abc.army.mil or by calling the ABC-C. Also, if you have not already paid your Post-56 military deposit, but wish to do so before you retire, you should initiate the process at this time.

If any of the following statements pertain to you, contact a counselor concerning your annuity estimate — you have worked or are working on a part-time work schedule; your job is with the non-appropriated fund service; you elected to transfer to the Federal Employment Retirement System (FERS); you have taken a refund of retirement contributions for a past period of service; you have prior military service, and have not paid a deposit for Post-56 military service or have not made a deposit for a period of nondeduction service (temporary service).

About five months in advance of your retirement, you will need to learn more about the retirement process. Visit the ABC-C web site and check out the ABC-C’s Retirement Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and the Retirement General Information. (You may also obtain this information from the ABC-C Fax-Back system, see below).

Next, you will need to obtain and complete your retirement application. You may obtain all retirement-related forms, as well as helpful ABC-C Fact Sheets by visiting the web site: www.abc.army.mil/Information/ABCRetirement/Forms/Forms.asp. You may also obtain these forms from the ABC-C Fax Back option. Select option number 6 from the main menu of the ABC-C phone system. Then, select the option to request an index of available documents. You can review the list and have retirement forms, fact sheets and general information documents faxed to you. If you do not have access to a computer, you may obtain a retirement application from the APG Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

You will need to make a few decisions when completing your retirement application. First, if you are eligible, and wish to carry your Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) into retirement, you will need to make an election concerning the amount of coverage you wish to carry past age 65 for your Basic Life, and Option B and Option C (if applicable). To learn more about carrying FEGLI into retirement, check out the FEGLI handbook at the following link: www.opm.gov/insure/life/handbook/Annuits3.htm#procedures%20for%20retiring%20employees.

You will also need to make a decision concerning a survivor annuity election for your current and/or former spouse. If you are currently married and do not wish to elect the maximum survivor benefit, your spouse must consent to your election of a lesser annuity or no annuity. If you have a former spouse who was awarded a court-ordered survivor benefit, you must make your election accordingly.

In addition to the ABC-C web site, you can find a wealth of retirement information on the OPM web site at www.opm.gov. OPM offers retirement publications on various topics – just click below:

CSRS Retirement Publications, www.opm.gov/retire/html/library/csrs.html; FERS Retirement Publications, www.opm.gov/retire/html/library/fers.html.

If you need to speak with a benefits counselor throughout the retirement process, you may do so by calling the ABC-C at 1-877-276-9287 (toll-free from a touch tone telephone), Mondays through Fridays, from 6 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Central Time).

Within 90-120 days of your retirement, your completed retirement application should be sent to the ABC-C. Please ensure that you have submitted all of the required forms and that each has been properly completed, signed and dated. Once your application has been submitted, remind your supervisor to submit the Request for Personnel Action for your retirement as soon as possible.

For more information, contact the ARMY BENEFITS CENTER - CIVILIAN, Southwest CPOC, 301 Marshall Avenue, Fort Riley, KS 66442-5004, www.abc.army.mil, or call 1-877-276-ARMY-CTR (1-877-276-9287), or TDD: 1-877-276-9833.

Virus

From front page

lymph glands.

More severe infection (encephalitis) is less common and may be marked by headache, high fever, stiff neck, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, and paralysis.

Persons with severe or unusual headaches should seek medical care as soon as possible.

In a few cases, mostly among the elderly, death may occur.

There is no documented evidence that a pregnancy is at risk due to infection with the West Nile Virus.

Risk

The risk of developing the West Nile Virus is limited to people in areas where the virus activity occurs and is higher in people 50 years of age or older.

A 1999 survey of residents in the most affected areas of New York City shows that about 2.6% of residents were infected with the West Nile virus but either were not clinically ill or had only mild illness.

Treatment

There is no specific treatment for West Nile encephalitis. Therapy is supportive in nature and may require hospitalization based on the severity of symptoms.

Prevention

There is no vaccine for West Nile encephalitis. Here are some tips to reduce the risk of becoming infected:

- Report dead or dying birds to your city, county, or state health department.
- Alert health authorities to potential mosquito breeding sites in your area.
- Avoid activities in areas where mosquitoes are present (check with local health department).
- Wear long-sleeve shirts and pants whenever you are outdoors.
- Apply insect repellent

directly to exposed skin and/or clothing. Never use repellent over cuts, wounds, or irritated skin.

- Spray clothing with repellents containing permethrin or diethyltoluamide(DEET), because mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing. An effective repellent will contain the active ingredient DEET. Whenever you use an insecticide or insect repellent, be sure to read and follow the manufacturer's DIRECTIONS FOR USE, as printed on the product. (Note: Vitamin B and "ultrasonic" devices are NOT effective in preventing mosquito bites.)

Avoid applying repellent to

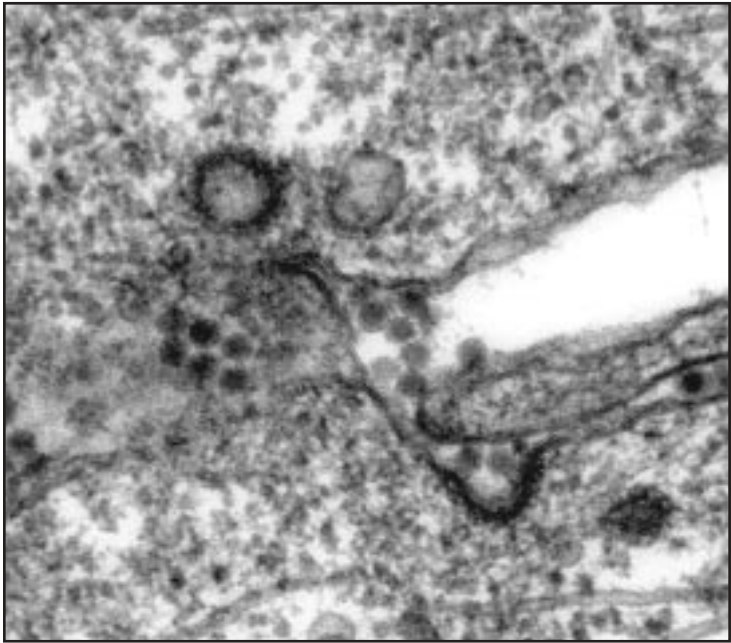
children less than 2 years old, and to the hands of older children since the repellent may irritate the eyes and mouth.

- Drain standing water in your yard. Empty water from mosquito breeding sites, such as flower pots, pet bowl, clogged rain gutters, swimming pool covers, discard tires, buckets, barrels, cans, and similar items in which mosquitoes can lay eggs.
- Maintain window and door screening to keep mosquitoes out of the buildings.

For more information, call the Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, Preventive Medicine Department, 410-278-1964.

Photos courtesy of www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid

Above, the transmission cycle is shown. Right, electron micrograph shows transmission of virus in blood.



“Gas Mask Dash” set for Sept. 20

The nineteenth annual “Gas Mask Dash” will take place at Hoyle Gymnasium in Aberdeen Proving Ground’s Edgewood Area. The flat, fast two-miler will start for women at 5:30 p.m., with the men’s race following at 6 p.m.

Entry fee is \$10 for adults and \$8 for children ages 14 and under. Checks should be made payable to “Gas Mask Dash.” Commemorative tee shirts will be provided to all entrants. The registration desk will close at 5:30 p.m. on race day.

Awards go to the top three finishers in each of the following eight age groups (men and women): under 11, 11 to 14, 15 to 19, 20 to 29, 30 to 39, 40 to 49, 50 to 59, 60 and over. The

top two men and women, overall (civilian and military), will be recognized, as will the top team in three categories: men, women and co-ed. The youngest and oldest runners will also receive awards.

To enter, fill out the form below and mail with check to:

Commander, U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Activity
ATTN: AMSSB-OEC-CO, Bldg. E1946 (Gas Mask Dash)
APG, MD 21010-5424

For more information, call Linda Nogle, 410-278-5225, or MAJ Bill Huber, 410-436-8788.

Name _____ Age _____ Sex _____
(First) (MI) (Last)

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Circle One: Military/Civilian/or Team

Military Rank _____ Phone No. _____ Circle Shirt Size: S M L XL

As a condition to my participation in the gas Mask Dash, I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims, which I may have against the United States of America, the U.S. Army, and agents thereof or any other group of persons involved in the Gas Mask Dash. I acknowledge by reading and understanding this clause that I am physically fit and have trained sufficiently for this event.

Signed _____ Date _____

If under 18, Parent/Guardian _____

Army-funded university courses available under Professional Development Program

Mike Cast
DTC

A manpower and force management specialist with the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command took advantage of an Army program that pays for college courses that support professional development.

After putting together a submission package that included nine required forms plus a letter of acceptance from her university of choice and an academic plan, Sue Schafer competed against other Career Program 26 candidates to receive Army funding for university courses through the Functional Chief Representative Competitive Professional Development Programs.

Based on her submission package, the func-

tional chief representative for CP-26 selected Schafer to receive Army funding. She plans to take University of Maryland online graduate courses related to business administration.

“This is a good opportunity for organizations to gain something back on the Army’s investment in their people, and they don’t even have to use their own funds because it is DA funded,” Schafer said. “I am looking forward to going back to school.”

Schafer said she learned about this opportunity by perusing the Army Civilian Training, Education and Development System (ACTEDS) catalog, available on the Internet at <http://www.cpol.army.mil/train/catalog/index.html> courtesy of the Army Civilian Personnel On Line (CPOL) Web site.

The professional development programs list-

ed within the ACTEDS catalog can provide selected candidates with Army funding for undergraduate and graduate courses which apply to various Army career fields.

This program is open to Army employees in a wide range of career programs. The General Service grade at which employees are eligible to compete for course funding depends upon their particular career program. The funding is intended for courses that relate to an employee’s job.

The Competitive Professional Development Programs also include career-enhancement opportunities that are open to all Army career programs. Among these are the Army Congressional Fellowship Program, Defense Civilian Intelligence Personnel System Opportunities, the Logistics Executive

Development Course and the Secretary of the Army Research and Study Fellowship.

In addition to these professional development opportunities, the fiscal year 2002 ACTEDS catalog contains information on the Army Civilian Leadership Training Core Curriculum, Senior Service College Programs, Government/Non-Government Training and Career Field Training.

The catalog also contains appendices that include the FY 2002 Calendar of Professional and Long-Term Training Programs, a Long-Term Training Guide, online forms and instructions for the Army Resume Builder.

For more information on these and other programs, check the ACTEDS calendar on the CPOL Web site.

Harford County remembers POW/MIAs

The Harford County Commission on Veterans Affairs invites the public to a POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony on Sept. 23, 2:30 p.m., at the William A. Humbert Amphitheater inside Shamrock Park at Lee Way and Hickory Avenue behind the Bel Air Town Hall.

The event is being held to promote public awareness of service members from all conflicts who remain unaccounted for or were prisoners of war.

Honor guards from the Vietnam Veterans of America will conduct the ceremony and the Maryland Wing, Civil Air Patrol Band, will perform musical selections.

Guest speakers include Al Bland, a survivor of the infa-

mous Bataan Death March, and Michael Romanelli, a POW in Germany during World War II.

All military personnel, active, separated and retired, are encouraged to wear their medals, full size or miniature. The ceremony is free and open to the public.

In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held at the American Legion Post 39 at 500 Conowingo Road in Bel Air.

For more information, contact Norman Boskind, chair, POW/MIA Ceremony Committee, 410-288-8562, daytime, or 410-893-0337, evenings.



Conference

From front page

in addition to their personal room key. As long as residents refrain from propping open the entrances to the barracks, outsiders should not have easy access.

Issue: Teen lounge

The teen lounge in the Edgewood Area is too small and elementary school share it with middle school children. The teens want a separate area.

Recommendation: Use an unoccupied building on APG for a teen center.

Resolution: Edgewood Area youth have outgrown their facility. Administration and operations spaces were converted into a teen lounge in an effort to provide a place for teens, however the need for additional space precluded exclusive use by the teens. Funding for expanding the youth facilities has been requested, and if and when the funds arrive, the teens should have their own lounge.

Issue: Consent for medical appointments outside of the access area

Some beneficiaries are not informed at the time they make appointments that they are being scheduled for a location outside of the usual access area. Some patients do not know that they can request a closer location. These inconvenient appointments can result in excessive time away from home and work, additional travel expense, and stress related to unfamiliarity with the

area and the additional time and expense involved.

Recommendation: Require the appointment clerk to verify that the beneficiary realizes their appointment is being scheduled for a location outside of the standard access area.

Resolution: TRICARE Prime patients referred by their primary care provider for specialty care who live outside of the 40-mile radius to a military treatment facility, have the option of receiving care through the civilian health care network.

They may waive that right if they want to go to the military facility beyond the radius, but they cannot waive the 30-day access standard. In other words, if they want to go to the military facility even though it is outside the radius, but the facility has no openings within the next 30 days, they will be scheduled with a civilian provider in the area.

On the other hand, if a beneficiary living beyond the 40-mile radius prefers the proximity of civilian care, they should inform the customer service

representative at the time the appointment is set up in order to receive timely treatment at a civilian facility in the area.

Issue: Child and youth services priority placement

Single civilians are in the same priority group as sole-parent active-duty service members and dual-military-service couples. This results in an increased time on the waiting list for incoming military personnel.

Recommendation: Reassess the Defense Department’s policy on child and youth services priority placement, place single civilians in priority two status, and ask the installation

commander for an exception to policy to implement the changes.

Resolution: There is currently no unmet demand for child care on APG. All incoming military either use the child development centers or family childcare provider homes if they need child care. The installation commander determines the priority status for childcare, and since there is no record of unmet demand, the categories will remain as they are.

Look for additional answers to community concerns in future issues of the APG News.

Environmental Restoration Division cleans up Army lands

Jeannie Skillman
USAEC

For over two centuries, the Army has defended our country’s lands. One reason why the Army has been successful in achieving that goal is because of the constant training of its soldiers. While the Army has stayed in fighting shape, the land used for training has sometimes taken a beating.

The Environmental Restoration Division at the U.S. Army Environmental Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground played a leading role in reversing the damage Army training and manufacturing has had on nearly 14 million acres of land. For two and a half decades, USAEC has been working to provide leadership, focus, direction and innovative solutions to the Army’s environmental challenges.

Environmental restoration was one of the first missions assigned to USAEC. The Installation Restoration Program was established in 1975 to clean up the Army’s contaminated lands, well before Congress passed the Superfund Law. Superfund, or the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, or CERCLA, was passed by Congress in 1980 to require the clean up of hazardous substances to the environment. Over the past 25 years, the restoration program has changed its name several times but the goal of the Environmental Restoration Division has remained the same.

“We have a clear-cut goal of cleaning up the environment damaged by contamination from past Army activities. Our goal is to reduce risk to human health and the environment and identify new ways to protect the land for the future,” said Dominique Edwards, acting chief of the ERD. “We also recognize that the sooner we can clean up our lands, the sooner the Army can focus its resources on its primary mission of soldier training and readiness.”

One of ERD’s most successful stories was the removal of Schofield Barracks from the National Priorities List last year.

The NPL was developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and identified some 1,200 sites that could pose a risk to public health and welfare or to the environment. Schofield Barracks, located in Hawaii, was placed on the list in 1990 due to the presence of trichloroethylene, a common cleaning solvent, in the underground water the post used as its drinking water source.

The cleanup of Schofield Barracks was completed in record time and marked the first time an entire Army installation was deleted from the nationwide list. Schofield Barracks was only the 10th Federal facility deleted from NPL since the Superfund was established. Superfund, or the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), was passed by Congress in 1980 to require the clean up of hazardous substances to the environment.

As Superfund amendments were refined and expanded, the Defense Department ultimately established the Defense Environmental Restoration Program providing for the cleanup of hazardous sites at active installations and formerly used defense sites (FUDS).

“The three pieces of Environmental Restoration the Army is controlling, with ERD in the lead, are the Installation Restoration Program (IRP), Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and FUDS,” explained Dominique Edwards. “Environmental restoration activities are accomplished at active installations, installations that are closing or whose missions have been realigned and formerly used defense sites. ERD plays an active management role in both the IRP and BRAC programs.”

According to Jim Daniel, USAEC Program Review and Assistance Branch chief, in the past twenty-five years, the Environmental Restoration Program has accomplished roughly 83% of its goals. Of the approximate 12,000 Army sites identified in the continental United States and eight U.S. territories, response has been completed on over 10,000, with the remaining

sites on track for completion by 2014.

“We accomplish our goals by bringing together the best people, latest technology and best business solutions,” said Daniel. “We are unique in the fact that we have a clearly identified a date to finish our goals. One day we will be done cleaning up yesterday’s spills and move on to the completion of implementing smarter pollution prevention programs.”

(Editor’s note: This is part of a series of articles outlining the reorganization of the U.S. Army Environmental Center, highlighting the Environmental Restoration Division.)



Photo courtesy of USAEC Unexploded Ordnance Specialists at Fort McClellan, Ala., search for UXO as part of the Base Realignment and Closure process, and before land is turned over to the community.

Photo by SPC KARA McCARTHY
U.S. Army Hawaii
Ben Paet, a Schofield Barracks Water Treatment facility plant operator, checks the water supply every two to three hours daily.



CAC

From front page

guest speaker and music by the 389th Army Band, AMC’s Own. Information on car registration for retirees using the installation should be available. Following the morning’s festivities, a luncheon will be held at one of the APG dining facilities. All retirees and their spouses are urged to attend this informative event. More information on Retiree Day will appear in the APG News as the date approaches.

Around the neighborhoods

A resident with a special needs family member asked for information on the Family Advocacy Program. The program operates through Army

Community Service, 410-278-7474. ACS will cover the scope of their operations at the next CAC, Sept. 27.

The school liaison position, mentioned at the CAC in June, will not be filled until funding becomes available Oct. 1. Once in place, the position will assist APG-related students and act as a point of contact for the schools and the installation, lessening the likelihood of miscommunication between the two.

Deer issues

Residents of Skippers Point and other housing areas are having problems with deer wandering too close to housing. Deer, showing little shyness around children and adults, forage around the playground and destroy garden plants growing near houses. Residents said contractors do

not always mow the grass as low to the ground or as close to the housing areas as they are required, and this encourages the deer to stray even closer to homes. Deer bring deer ticks, some of which carry Lyme Disease, and it is in the best interest of everyone to keep deer at a distance.

The grass-cutting contract is being looked at to see if a better cutting schedule is the answer, and new hunting laws for the installation may eliminate some of the overabundance of deer this year. In the meantime, adults are reminded to teach their children that wildlife is never to be approached. Any confrontation with deer or other wildlife is to be reported to the game warden at 410-306-0545.

Storm aftermath

The August hurricane-force winds and rainstorm resulted in a lot of downed limbs in the yards of post residents. They asked for a special pick up to accommodate the overabundance of yard trash, and thanked post personnel for responding promptly with road cleanup after the storm.

Mark said following the storm, post personnel worked long hours over the weekend to clear the roads and restore

power and communications, and added her thanks and appreciation on behalf of the installation commander and all residents for the efforts of Directorate of Public Works and Directorate of Information Management personnel.

A resident asked about garden plots. Although the installation plowed and fenced in areas for garden plots in the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas several years ago, the gardeners did not always remove their poles and fencing at the end of the season or when they moved away. Groundhogs and deer got into the plots damaging the vegetables. Some vegetable growers then gave up, leaving their plots to wildlife, again, not removing their stakes, etc. Post personnel had to do the clean up. The result? No land is scheduled to be set aside for garden plots.

Safety

A Scully Road resident said the neighbors appreciate the stop signs added to their residential street in an effort to slow down those who drive through the neighborhood. He asked that all those who could, avoid using the street. Currently, there are 11 children under the age of 4 residing in the area, and the speed limit is 15 mph. Please keep that in mind when driving on Scully Road.

Describing the streets of the Bayside Housing Area as a “racetrack,” a resident said speeding in many APG neighborhoods is an everyday occurrence.

Bikers and scooter riders

are reminded that helmets must be worn when using motorcycles, scooters, bicycles, and roller blades and skates. When in doubt, wear a helmet.

Residents are reminded that portable basketball hoops are to be set back by the garage and not left in the street.

Recycle items, bulk trash

Some neighborhoods are continually forgotten when it comes to recycle pick up. Residents are reminded that recycling cans are available at the Re-Nu-It centers. Check the recycle schedule and place appropriate items at the curb for pick up. If the trash removers do not pick it up, and the correct recyclables are placed at the curb, call 410-278-4747/9741.

In addition, the refuse contractor can pick up bulk trash items, but will make an additional run to do so. Don’t abandon your bulk items at isolated areas on post, but place them at the curb for pick up. Acceptable bulk trash items include furniture, mattresses and appliances. Call the phone numbers listed in this paragraph with questions regarding bulk trash.

Housing residents are also asked to keep an eye on vacant quarters. If anyone is hanging around vacant quarters or appears to be up to mischief, call the APG police. Knowing others are watching may be all that is needed to discourage destruction of property and avoid a trip to juvenile court.

Post improvements

Some playground improve-

ment money has been received. The first playground improvement will take place at New Chesapeake Housing Area.

The Edgewood Area Youth Center playground is open to school age children when not in use by the Youth Center.

Geothermal testing was successful. As a result, nearly 70 percent of heat pumps in the housing areas may be replaced this winter.

Concert bookings

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Stallings referred to an article on concert bookings in the Aug. 16 issue of the APG News. Receiving criticism for some of the acts booked on the installation, Stallings assured those attending the CAC that some groups are more willing to book several months in advance, what the installation feels it needs for proper advertisement, and some bookings just fall into place. The installation is actively pursuing Rhythm and Blues, Rap, and Urban Pop acts, but many are not willing to book more than two or three weeks in advance. Stallings asks for support for those groups coming to the installation and patience as APG tries to secure a variety of musical performers to appeal to all post residents.

The next meeting of the Community Action Council is scheduled for 9 a.m. Sept. 27 in the main conference room of garrison headquarters, building 305.

Soldiers awarded at Legion convention

By Rich Lamance
Army News Service

Two soldiers received awards this week at the American Legion national convention in San Antonio, Texas.

California National Guard Staff Sgt. Rebecca Calleja was presented the Meritorious Service Medal for her initiative to render honors to a fallen veteran when she spotted a man struggling to fold an American flag over a casket.

Spc. Jousette M. Durkop of Fort Irwin, Calif., received the American Legion's Spirit of Service Award. The 20-year-old medic with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment was presented a glass and marble trophy for her volunteer community service.

Both awards were presented Aug. 28 by Maj. Gen. Dennis Cavin, commander of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command. Ray G. Smith, American Legion national commander, also participated in the service-award ceremony.

A letter to President George W. Bush had earlier cited Calleja for her service to a deceased veteran's family. The son of the deceased praised Calleja and her team for providing an impromptu formal military flag presentation during graveside services for his father, a World War II veteran.

Calleja is a team leader for a Fresno, Calif., area funeral detail team. She and her team had gone to a cemetery to have their pictures taken as a group when they spotted a graveside service where a man was struggling to fold the American flag.

"I talked to who I found out later was

the deceased man's son and asked if we could help provide a formal flag presentation to the family," Calleja said. "Our bugler played taps and we provided a four-person detail to fold the flag from the coffin and the senior NCO presented it to his son."

Calleja said that a normal detail consists of two soldiers to fold the flag, a bugler and a five-to-seven soldier rifle contingent. Calleja and her soldiers are part of the California Veterans Honor Program, a federally mandated, state funded program designed to provide, upon request, military funeral honors for the families of deceased veterans. The team averages about 35 funerals each month, covering the entire San Joaquin Valley area of central California, as well as parts of Arizona and Nevada.

The Fresno native is a full-time National Guard soldier who also pulls one weekend a month and two weeks a year as an aviation hydraulics mechanic with the 1106th Aviation Classification Repair Depot in Fresno. She has more than 18 years of military service, with more than nine years as a Navy aviation mechanic.

Calleja spends much of her time promoting the Veteran Honors Program, educating funeral directors about the services she and her team can provide to the families of deceased veterans. She sees the sales and public relations aspects of her job increasingly important as the nation begins to lose a large number of its World War II veterans.

"We're losing more than 1,800 veterans a day, and it's increasingly important

that their families know we're out there and available to pay the respect they deserve for their selfless service."

Durkop was the Army's representative in an award ceremony that involved a member from each of the five armed forces. The American Legion's Spirit of Service Award honored the recipients for "exceptional volunteer service to 'God, country and community.'"

Durkop was nominated by her troop and squadron commanders for her strong support within the local community, as well as involvement reaching as far as her hometown in Wasilla, Alaska. In addition to her job as a medical specialist with the aid station at Fort Irwin, Durkop has a long record of community involvement.

Volunteer efforts included her unit's representation for the post's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, or BOSS organization, as well as church activities ranging from organizing fundraisers to food drives and serving meals to the less fortunate during the holidays. She even found a way, through the Internet, to co-author her church newsletter in Alaska.

"There is no better feeling than to make even a little bit of difference in someone else's life," said Durkop. "When my mom was a single mother, I saw how much it impacted on us when people gave even a little extra of themselves to help us out. I want to do that. I want to help."

(Editor's note: Rich Lamance heads up the print media branch of the Army and Air Force Hometown News Service.)

National Pollution Prevention Week marks expansion of consumer participation

By Maia Guitard and Robert Solyan
Pollution Prevention Program

Commissary shoppers will soon have the opportunity to help prevent pollution by selecting environmentally preferable products identified by special Aberdeen Proving Ground pollution prevention logos.

The logos will begin appearing on the store shelves during National Pollution Prevention Week, Sept. 17 to 21.

Posters at the Commissary and the Post Exchange will explain pollution prevention and the environmentally preferable product (EPP) labeling program, which has been used successfully for several years at Office Eagle, the installation office supply source.

Environmentally-preferable products cause less harm to human health and the environ-

ment than competing products available in the store.

For example, a chemical cleaner packaged as a pump spray may have harmful full characteristics but be less harmful than a similar cleaner packaged as an aerosol, which requires the addition of a propellant chemical.

Below are some questions the Pollution Prevention Program office asks in judging a product's environmental preferability.

Is it an aerosol? Propellant chemicals pose explosion hazards and cause air pollution.

Does it contain recycled content? Products made of post-consumer recycled materials reduce the need for raw materials in manufacturing and the amount of solid waste in landfills.

Is it recyclable? Recycling reduces the need for raw materials and the amount of waste in the solid waste stream.

Is it nonchemical? A mechanical product, like a feather duster, is preferred over a product like dusting

spray.

Is it biodegradable? Biodegradable products decompose under natural conditions unlike non-biodegradables which remain in the environment for many years.

Is it energy efficient? Energy efficient products use less energy and, thereby, reduce pollution involved in energy production.

Does it contain harmful chemicals? An EPP product contains no harmful chemicals or the least amount needed to do the job.

Is it reusable/durable? Products that can be used repeatedly reduce the need for raw materials and the amount of waste in the solid waste stream.

For more information contact the Pollution Prevention Program office at 410-306-2273/2274/2275, or, email maia.guitard@usag.apg.army.mil.



APG Youth Karate classes to begin



The Youth Centers in Aberdeen Proving Ground's Aberdeen and Edgewood areas will hold Karate Class instruction beginning Oct. 1. Weekday evening classes cost \$60 for a three-month session (youths must be current members of Child and Youth Services). Classes will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Mondays and Fridays at

the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522. For registration, call Amie Pryzgoda, 410-278-7571. Classes will be held 5 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays at the EA Youth Center, building E-1902. For pre-registration, call Scott Cottrell, 410-436-2862, or send email to scott.cottrell@usag.apg.army.mil.

White visits troops in Bosnia

By Staff Sgt. Lisa Dunphy
Army News Service

The secretary of the army told soldiers in Bosnia that “you truly are making a difference in this part of the world” during a visit to the Balkans Sept. 6.

Thomas White, making his first visit to the region since his confirmation in May, braved a steady downpour while stopping at Eagle Base, Tuzla and nearby Camp Comanche for briefings on the state of the Stabilization Force mission, and to speak with soldiers.

“Thank you for a great job. We are all very proud of what you’ve done, and you should be proud of what you’ve done to sustain the great history of the Marne Division,” White told soldiers. SFOR 9, commanded by the 3rd Infantry (“Rock of the Marne”) Division, is nearing the end of its year-long tour.

Secretary White received operational briefings from soldiers of Task Force 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., and 2d Battalion, 121st Infantry, Georgia National Guard. While at Camp Comanche, White presented Army Achievement medals to several soldiers in a ceremony marking the end of the rotation.

Quality of life for soldiers, retention, potential force reductions and the active-duty/reserve component relationship were issues discussed by White as he talked with soldiers and posed for photos with them.

The secretary told assembled soldiers that both the active duty and reserve components have met their recruiting goals for this year, with the active component recently swearing in its 75,800 soldier. “No corporation in America can say that,” he noted.

While speaking with members of TF 2-3 Aviation, White talked about the debate

on Capitol Hill about potential force structure cuts in the future.

“That ain’t gonna happen,” he told the soldiers in TF 2-3’s Tactical Operations Center. “What I’ve told (Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld) is - if you want to make the Army smaller, then tell me what I get to stop doing, which deployment do I not go to? The Army we’ve got is already over-deployed.”

He praised the aviators for their outstanding operational readiness ratings, “You knew they must always be ready and you took the extra effort.”

The Army’s 18th secretary of the Army, escorted by Maj. Gen. Walter Sharp, commanding general, Multinational Division North and 3rd ID, listened as Lt. Col Reed Dunn, commander, 2-121, discussed his task force’s capabilities and responsibilities. When speaking of the Bradley Fighting Vehicles at his disposal, Sharp told the secretary, “We haven’t had to use them in the year we’ve been here.”

To that White replied, “But everyone knows they’re here, and that’s the point.”

The 3rd ID actually provided two separate six-month rotations of soldiers to serve in Bosnia. The second rotation included a number of units from the Georgia National Guard.

The Georgia Guard soldiers are responsible for patrolling one of the most contentious areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the Eastern Republic of Srpska, officials said. This area includes the town of Srebrenica where one of the worst atrocities occurred during the nearly four-year war. More than 7,000 Bosnian-Muslim men were separated from their families July 11, 1995 and massacred over the next several days.

White took time to promote and enlist several soldiers at the Eagle Base

Airfield before departing. One of those soldiers, Sgt. Luis Mendoza, was thrilled to be promoted from corporal by the secretary of the army.

“It was an honor,” said Sgt. Mendoza, who works in the information operations office. “Something like this just doesn’t happen every day.”

Capt. Juan Mejia, also promoted by Sec. White, echoed those sentiments.

“I jumped at the chance to be promoted by him,” said Capt. Mejia, who is stationed at Fort Stewart and serves as an engineer plans officer here. “It was a truly rewarding experience.”

The cohesive mix of National Guard, Army Reserves and active-duty soldiers during SFOR rotations past and future brought accolades from the secretary as he prepared to depart for Kosovo.

“All three components are here - working together, training together, living together, operating together,” he said. “You can’t tell one from another. The rhetoric we have always talked about - being one Army - we’re actually doing it. There is proof behind the substance that we are one Army, and I think that’s wonderful.”

Some have questioned the Balkans mission, Secretary White noted, but SFOR soldiers can look back on their work with pride.

“We all know about the loss of life, and we are here stopping that. Consequently, there is a chance for the people who live in this part of the world to have a reasonable life going forward,” he said.

“If we live to be 100, we can look back and say we made a difference right here,” he said.

(Editor’s note: Staff Sgt. Lisa Dunphy is a member of the 366th MPAD, 126th Press Camp Headquarters.)

New policy eases conditional promotions

By Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

This fiscal year 52,259 soldiers were selected for promotion to noncommissioned officer grades - the highest number selected in the past eight years.

But only 80 percent of those selected for sergeant will pin on the rank.

Beginning October, soldiers will be removed from the sergeant recommended list after 12 months if they have been selected for promotion, but have not attended the Primary Leadership Development Course or if they have not been conditionally promoted, said Sgt. Maj. Gerald Purcell, personnel policy integrator for Office of the

Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

“We cannot accurately forecast future cutoff scores with a list that contains names of soldiers who are not qualified and cannot be promoted,” Purcell said.

In May the Army announced a conditional promotions provision for specialists and corporals who have met the cutoff score, but are deployed, on temporary profile or waiting to attend the Primary Leadership Development Course. Since it’s implementation, commanders have not been effectively using the tool, Purcell said.

“Commanders need to understand that they need to either conditionally promote soldiers or their soldiers will

See NCO, page 13

Army Knowledge Online accounts now mandatory

By Diane A. Grant
Army News Service

Every soldier, reservist and Army civilian will be required to have an Army Knowledge Online account by Oct. 1.

This requirement was spelled out in a memorandum signed Aug. 8 by Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki. The memo outlines the goals and direction for Army Knowledge Management, a strategy to transform the Army into a “network-centric, knowledge-based force.” The Army Knowledge Online portal is a central part of that strategy.

“Army Knowledge Management will allow the Army to leverage its knowledge as an enterprise,” said Lt. Col(P). Jane F. Maliszewski, director of Strategic Outreach, Army Chief Information Office. “Army Knowledge Management facilitates the move to an e-Business environment by harnessing best practices that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our management and operations.”

In the future soldiers, reservists, National Guardsmen, and civilians will no longer have to send away for copies of their personnel and financial records; they will be able to access this information through an Army Knowledge Online account, officials said. Eventually, they will be able to view and update their personnel data on the Web.

All Army Knowledge Online users will also be given an e-mail account that they can use for the rest of their career and even after retirement. The e-mail address will stay the same no matter where soldiers and civilians are stationed worldwide.

See ACCOUNTS, page 13

MOVIES

ADMISSION: ADULTS \$3, CHILDREN \$1.50
Building 3245 Aberdeen Boulevard

OSMOSIS JONES

Friday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m.

Starring: Bill Murray, Molly Shannon



Deep in the City of Frank (actually the body of construction worker Frank Detomello), Osmosis Jones is a white blood cell cop who has to team up with a rookie cold tablet to fight off evil viruses intent on taking over. Meanwhile, out in the “real world,” a doctor is trying to diagnose what’s going on inside Frank’s body. (Rated PG)



THE SCORE (FREE ADMISSION)

Saturday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m.

Starring: Robert DeNiro, Edward Norton

An aging thief has retired to live off his riches, running a Montreal Jazz lounge until he’s blackmailed into doing one more heist by a young upstart. (Rated R)



ORIGINAL SIN

Saturday, Sept. 15, 9 p.m.

Starring: Antonio Banderas, Angelina Jolie

When Luis takes Julia as his American bride, he thinks his life in Cuba is complete. But people aren’t always who they seem, and Luis’ life begins to unravel. When Julia disappears with his money, Luis is forced to look into Julia’s past. (Rated R)

LIBRARY BOOK CORNER

The Garrison Library has new computer books. for your reading pleasure. Visit either the Aberdeen Area Library or the Edgewood Area Branch Library and check out the selections.

Absolute Beginner’s Guide to Networking, by Joseph Habracken

C++ Developer’s Headstart, by Philip Spokas

Cisco: A Beginner’s Guide, by Toby J. Velte

How to Do Everything with Your Scanner, by Jill Gilbert



Internet & Computer Ethics for Kids (and Parents & Teachers Who haven’t got a Clue), by Winn Schwartau

Introduction to the Internet, (third edition), by Scott D. James

Networking: A Beginner’s Guide, by Bruce A. Hallberg

A Programmer’s Introduction to C#, by Eric Gunnerson



Sams Teach Yourself TCP/IP in 24 Hours, by Joe Casad

XML, XSLT, Java and JSP: A Case Study in Developing A Web Application, by Westy Rockwell

The operating hours of the Aberdeen Area Library effective September 9, 2001 are Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The operating hours of the Edgewood Area Library are Tuesday 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Friday 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

OC&S LIBRARY

The Ordnance Center and Schools Library is located in the basement of building 3071. Hours are Monday and Thursday, noon to 5 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday, noon to 7 p.m., and Friday, noon to 4 p.m.

Community Notes

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 15
COMEDY JAM PT II**

Charlton-Miller VFW Post No. 6054 is presenting “Saturday Night Comedy Jam PT II” featuring, from the “Kiss My Bumper” commercial and BET Comic View, comedian HOWARD G and Friends. Donations are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Tickets are available at VFW Post No. 6054 or contact senior vice commander at 410-272-3444. There will also be an “after-party” Jam.

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 22
ANNUAL VA PATIENTS CARNIVAL**

The Weedon-Elliott Ladies’ Auxiliary VFW #8126, 300 Lodge Lane, Havre de Grace, will attend the annual Perry Point Veterans Administration Medical Center’s Patients Carnival.

For more information on set up and arrival time, call Bernice Shimizu, 410-272-4020.

FLEA MARKET, BAKE SALE

There will be a Flea Market and Bake Sale at the Aberdeen Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post 10028 starting at 8 a.m. Rent for tables is \$10 and must be pre-paid by Sept. 19. Rain or shine — event will be held indoors. Hot dogs and sodas will also be available.

For more information call 410-272-1218 or 410-893-5192.

**MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 24
KOREAN VETERANS FORM CHAPTER**

Aberdeen American Legion Post 128 is hosting a new Korean War veterans chapter formation meeting 7 p.m. at 15 Parke Avenue in Aberdeen. Korean War veterans and their wives are invited to attend. Annual dues for the new chapter are \$10. For more information, contact Nick Guerra, 410-272-0458.

**THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 27
RAB MEETING**

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting from 7 to 9:45 p.m., at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road. The topics will include updates on the Lauderick Creek Chemical Warfare Materiel Removal Action and the Western boundary area. Board meetings are open to the public. All APG employees and citizens are invited. For more information call 410-272-8842 or 1-800-APG-9998.

**FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 28
COUNTRY HOE DOWN**

The Harford County Country/Western Dance Association, a non-profit organization, sponsors country western dancing each Friday at the American Legion located on Parke Street in Aberdeen. Dancing will be held 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. The instructor will announce lessons. Everyone is welcome. Cost of admission is \$10 and includes draft beer, soda, chips and pretzels.

For more information, call 410-272-8318.

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 29
TEA PARTY**

The Civilian Welfare Fund is sponsoring a Tea Party at the Hays House, 324 S. Kenmore Avenue in Bel Air, Sept. 29 from 2 to 5 p.m. Presentations will be given on the “History of Tea” and “Language of the Fan.” Touring of the museum is welcomed and questions will be answered by costumed docents. Custom blended teas, iced tea punch, pastries, scones and finger sandwiches are included. The price per person is \$14.00.

Please contact Angela Keithley or Jacqueline McKeever at 410-278-4603/4771 for reservations.

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 6
WACVA OCTOBER MEETING**

The Maryland Free State Chapter 70 of the Women’s Army Veterans Association will hold its October meeting 10 a.m. at the Aberdeen Senior Citizen Center.

**FRIDAY
OCTOBER 12
COUNTRY HOE DOWN**

The Harford County Country/Western Dance Association, a non-profit organization, sponsors country western dancing each Friday at the American Legion located on Parke Street in Aberdeen. Dancing will be held 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. The instructor will announce lessons. Everyone is welcome. Cost of admission is \$10 and includes draft beer, soda,

chips and pretzels. For more information, call 410-272-8318.

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 13
DELTA CARDIFF HOLDS HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

The Fifth Annual Delta Cardiff Heritage Festival will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Main Street and Pendyrus Street, Delta, Pa., (at the Peach Bottom Community Center and the Rehoboth Welsh Chapel). The theme for this year’s festival is “Saluting our Service Men and Women, Honoring our Civilians.”

Admission to the festival will be a non-perishable food, personal care or household item (commercially packaged foods, soups, toothpaste, toothbrushes, detergent, shampoo, etc.). All admission proceeds will be donated to the Mason-Dixon Food Locker.

Activities include breakfast at Trinity AME Zion Church, located across the street from Rehoboth Welsh Chapel; demonstrations of slate splitting and welsh dancing; various singing groups; and exhibits by local organizations, churches and businesses, games, face painting, a petting zoo, a silent auction and more. The Old Line Museum also will have a large display.

No alcoholic beverages or weapons are allowed on the premises for this event.

For more information, call Don and Ruth Ann Robinson, 717-456-7124, Nancy L. Smith, 717-456-5580, or David Glenn, 717-862-3538.

DINNERTO HONOR KOREAN VETERANS

The Korean War Commemoration Committee is holding a dinner honoring living and deceased Korean War veterans at 6 p.m. at the Richlin Ballroom, I-95 and Route 24 in Edgewood. Maj. Gen. Hwang, Republic of Korea military attaché, will present ROK service medals to those who submit a DD Form 214 by Sept. 15. The guest speaker will be retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Nels Running. Music will be provided by the 389th Army Band (AMC’s Own). Tickets cost \$27 per person. Checks may be mailed to Town of Bel Air, 39 Hickory Avenue, Bel Air, MD 21014. For more information, contact Ray Astor at 410-939-1369 or Blair Cross at 410-893-8145.

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 20
POTOMAC MILLS SHOPPING**

The Civilian Welfare Fund is sponsoring a trip to the Potomac Mills Mall in Virginia on Oct. 20. This mall features 220 stores, offering discounts up to 70 percent on favorite name brand merchandise. Potomac Mills also features a 15-theater movie cinema, 25 eateries and several restaurants. Get a head start on holiday shopping! The price is \$20 per person for charter bus transportation. Call Angela Keithley or Jacqueline McKeever at 410-278-4603 or 4771 for reservations.

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 3
WACVA NOVEMBER MEETING**

The Maryland Free State Chapter 70 of the Women’s Army Veterans Association will hold its November meeting 10 a.m. at the Aberdeen Senior Citizen Center. For more information call Wanda Story at 410-272-5040.

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 10
VETERANS DAY LUNCHEON**

The Maryland Free State Chapter 70 of the Women’s Army Veterans Association will hold their annual Veterans Day Luncheon 11 a.m. at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Aberdeen. Everyone is welcome to attend. For information call Wanda Story at 410-272-5040.

**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 9 to 16
ABERDEEN LIONS PLAN VALENTINE CRUISE**

The Aberdeen Lions Club is sponsoring a seven-night Valentine cruise to the Western Caribbean in 2002. The public is invited to join the Lions on the newest Norwegian Cruise ship. “Norwegian Sun,” from Miami to Georgetown, Grand Caymen; Roatan, Bay Islands; Belize City, Belize; and Cozumel, Mexico. Snorkel on the longest barrier reef in the Western Hemisphere, swim with dolphins or stingrays, or just relax on the ship. The package includes complimentary round-trip transfers from Aberdeen to Baltimore-Washington International Airport, round-trip air from BWI to Miami, all meals and entertainment, all port charges and taxes, and a pre-cruise get-together. Call now and receive a \$50 shipboard credit per stateroom. Enjoy a romantic Valentine cruise while helping the Aberdeen Lions Club raise funds for their community service activities.

For information, call Lions club members Joyce or Ron Landbeck, 410-272-5649. For reservations, call Accent-on-Travel, 1-800-848-3273.

MWR UPDATE

Edgewood Arts & Crafts, building E-4440, is a Morale, Welfare Recreation facility and is open to active and retired military, civilians, and contractors working on Aberdeen Proving Ground and their dependents, Thursday, 1 to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 410-436-2153.

The Edgewood Arts and Crafts center is conducting a clearance sale on cross stitch thread and books for 10 cents each.

All craft classes listed below are held at the Edgewood Arts and Crafts Center

Framing class
A beginning matting and framing class will be held Sept. 25, 5:30 to 9 p.m. Students must bring an 8 inch by 10 inch picture to class to frame and pre register in advance because class size is limited. Cost is \$15, plus supplies.



Custom Framing
A professional picture framer is available to help with all of your framing needs. Photographs, diplomas, limited-edition prints, cross stitch, posters, oil paintings or just about anything can be framed.

There is a wide selection of mats and frames to choose from.

Large or small pictures can be framed for your home or office. VISA or master card are accepted, including government VISA cards. Two locations are available for all your framing needs, one in Aberdeen in building 2407, and another in Edgewood in building E-4440.

For information, call 410-278-4207 or 410-436-2153.



Photo courtesy USACFSC
The U.S. Army's 2001 Armed Forces Men's Softball Champions pose for a team photo after winning their sixth consecutive championship at Fort Hood, Texas. Sgt. 1st Class Lester Daniels, second from right, standing, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Ordnance Battalion, was selected to the gold medal award winning team for the second consecutive year. Daniels also was selected to the All Armed Forces Team. Pictured from left to right, front, Staff Sgt. Mike Dochwat; Staff Sgt. Ron Perry; Sgt. Jerry Surber; Staff Sgt. Andre Elder; Sgt. 1st Class Jim Cabrera; Sgt. Jake Jenkins; Spc. Darren Poole and Staff Sgt. Ken Fairley. Rear, Chief Warrant Officer John Watts, coach; Capt. Mike Ladd; Sgt. Elmer Mason; Sgt. 1st Class Albert Kemp; Sgt. Tom O'Dea; Staff Sgt. Charles Hinds; Sgt. Dexter Avery; Spc. Eric Honeycutt; Daniels and Sgt. 1st Class Luis Ortiz, assistant coach.

APG softball player brings home Army gold

By Yvonne Johnson
APG News

For the second year in a row, Sgt. 1st Class Lester Daniels helped the All Army Men's Softball team to a medal at the Armed Forces Men's Softball Tournament, held Aug. 15 to 17 at Fort Hood, Texas.

Last year, the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Ordnance Battalion instructor brought home a silver medal for his efforts. This year, he one-upped himself and brought home the gold.

The All Army team went 8-1 throughout the tournament, defeating the Air Force 12-10 in the championship for the gold. The Army men last won the gold in 1995.

The Air Force won the silver medal with a 5-4 record while the Navy finished 3-6, and the Marines, 2-7.

Daniels said he was better prepared for the tournament's challenges this time.

"I was more relaxed because I knew some of the returning players," Daniels said, adding that the demanding schedule tests physical and mental toughness.

"We practiced three times a day, played double-headers every night with tournaments every weekend," he said. "We played at least 100 games and only lost three."

They did even better than that during the medal rounds, losing only one game to Air Force, 4-3 in the early rounds.

Describing last year's team as "one-dimensional," Daniels said "this year we had offense and defense covered."

"We prepared better and had a better mindset to go with our capabilities," he added.

At the tournament's conclusion Daniels was one of 15 players named to the All-Tournament Team as the most valuable players at their positions.

In addition, he was named to the All Armed Forces Softball Team to represent the Armed Forces at the National Championships Men's Majors in Lawton, Okla.

Daniels declined the honor to return to APG in time to help his son D.J. prepare for his first football season.

"I do this for fun, but I'm a dad for real," he said.

He thanked his chain of command for its support and his section for "pulling together so I didn't have to worry about things getting done."

He sent a special thanks to Sgts. 1st Class Terry Bonine, Ken Davis and James Burrell and Staff Sgt. Antonio Caver who practiced with him on the ball fields to get him ready to go.

Noting that his younger brother, Sgt. Dughan Daniels, Fort Benning, Ga., will be going out for the team next year, Daniels said he suggests to anyone trying out for All Army to "be confident and sure of yourself."

"Don't worry about things you can't control," he said, "and don't be discouraged by negative critiques. You evaluate and make your own adjustments."

An instructor with the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools' Fire Control Division, Daniels hails from Tampa, Fla. He lives on APG with his wife, Sabrina, and sons, 12-year old Trevonte, 7-year old D.J., and 1-year old Deion.

All-Tournament team most valuable players for 2001

- Pitcher** - Navy Petty Officer 1st Class John Bernhard, Jacksonville, Fla.
- Catcher** - Air Force Staff Sgt. Scott Harris, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.
- 1st Base** - Navy Chief Petty Officer Bradley Hurst, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 2nd Base** - Air Force Staff Sgt. Daniel Simpson, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas
- Shortstop** - Marine Corps Cpl. Robert Chute, Camp Pendleton, Calif.
- 3rd Base** - Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Harold Koudelka, Norfolk, Va.
- Outfield** - Army Sgt. 1st Class Lester Daniels, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.
- Outfield** - Army Sgt. 1st Class Jim Cabrera, Fort Hood, Texas
- Outfield** - Army Sgt. 1st Class Albert Kemp, Alexandria, Va.
- Outfield** - Air Force Staff Sgt. Jason Parker, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.
- Extra Hitter** - Marine Corps Sgt. Frederick Bryant, 4th Marine Division

All Armed Forces Men's Softball Team, 2001

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class John Bernhard, Jacksonville, Fla.	Air Force Staff Sgt. Daniel Simpson, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas	Force Base, Nebraska
Air Force Staff Sgt. Anthony Patrick, Kadena Air Base, Japan	Marine Corps Cpl. Robert Chute, Camp Pendleton, Calif.	Army Sgt. 1st Class Jim Cabrera, Fort Hood, Texas
Navy Chief Petty Officer Bradley Hurst, Jacksonville, Fla.	Army Sgt. Tyrone Avery, Fort Hood, Texas	Air Force Staff Sgt. Jason Parker, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.
Army Sgt. Elmer Mason, Fort Knox, Ky.	Army Sgt. 1st Class Lester Daniels, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.	Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Kevin Cox, Monterey, Calif.
	Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Todd Tapper, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii	Marine Corps Sgt. Frederick Bryant, 4th Marine Division
	Air Force Senior Airman Jeffrey Whitaker, Offut Air	Navy Chief Petty Officer Brian Neal, Everett, Wash.

NCO

From page 8

be removed from the list," Purcell said. "They recommended them. They sent them to the board. Now if they're not promoting them because of PLDC, that's punishing them."

The provision tied the hands of some commanders however, by requiring that they reserve a seat at PLDC before their soldiers could be conditionally promoted, Purcell said. A lot of the commanders didn't have the ability to reserve the seats, he said.

So in early August, DCSPER released a clarification policy message explaining that commanders can submit a Department of the Army 4187 form to their Personnel Support Battalion or equivalent indicating that the soldier will attend PLDC within a year of the conditional promotion.

"Once the commander signs the form we will accept it and conditionally promote the soldier," Purcell said.

A backlog of soldiers, who Purcell suspects are ineligible for promotion, will be cleaned up by initiating the policy to remove soldiers from the sergeant recom-

mended list after 12 months, he said. "When I look on the database, I see soldiers who were selected, but are ineligible because of weight problems, or they've been barred from re-enlistment or can't pass the PT test," Purcell said. "The rules clearly state that once a soldier is ineligible they have to be removed, but that's not happening."

The Special Military Occupational Specialty Alignment Promotion Program is another program that is not being used effectively, Purcell said.

The program allows specialists and corporals who are promotable and in stagnant MOSs to re-enlist for certain skills that have a shortage in sergeants.

Once soldiers complete the training for that specific skill they will be promoted to sergeant. There are currently 18 MOSs in the program. Specific details on the program are on the Military Personnel Messages web site at MILPER message 01-89.

Purcell said another shortage the Army foresees is sergeant first class recruiters.

In an effort to ensure the best-qualified NCOs are serving the difficult mission of recruiting, he said, the Army has selected 385 staff sergeants, who were former detailed recruiters, for promotion to sergeant first class if they volunteer to re-class into the MOS 79R (recruiter).

Staff sergeants who were not selected for promotion in their primary MOS during the calendar year 2001 were selected for promotion in the recruiting field. Soldiers can decline promotion without prejudice and remain in their current grade and PMOS, Purcell said.

"This is a win-win opportunity for our Army. The soldier wins, because he is offered the opportunity to get promoted, and the Army wins because it gets a highly qualified and skilled recruiter."

Besides the challenges of placing the right grade in the right slot, Purcell said that promotions in fiscal year 2001 are good news for the NCO Corps.

"The numbers this year outnumber last year by a little over 6,000" said Purcell. "That shows that it is a good opportunity for enlisted soldiers to progress."

The increase in promotions is mainly due to an increase in retirements among NCOs after 20 to 21 years of service, said Purcell. As senior NCOs retire, it creates a need for a promotion at each grade, he added.

Promotion allocations for September are as follows; sergeant major 10, master sergeant 100, sergeant first class 994, staff sergeant 1,183, sergeant 2,500.

Online

From page 8

officials said.

Army Knowledge Online provides secured access for users, by using encryption mechanisms similar to those used in banks and investment corporations, said the chief of Army Knowledge Online, Lt. Col. Rod Wade. In the future, new soldiers and employees will be issued an Army Knowledge Online account with their identification card.

"Army Knowledge Online will allow the Army to tailor information to specific groups. If they need to get information out to a certain grade or branch of

employees, they can target that group and tailor the information. This allows the Army to operate more efficiently," Wade said.

"Army Knowledge Management will effect a faster more accurate decision cycle for the Army," Maliszewski said, "through greater access to proven information. Eventually, it will provide online employee support services for all soldiers and civilians, as well as a robust knowledge base to enhance our warfighting capabilities."

To sign up for an Army Knowledge Online account go to: www.us.army.mil and click on "I'm a New User" to register.

No immediate threat to installation detected

By Yvonne Johnson
APG News

The most horrific attack to take place on American soil since Pearl Harbor rocked the nation Tuesday as presumed terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and on the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., set off protective measures throughout the country and around the world.

Flying hijacked American passenger planes, an unidentified group or groups struck the world famous twin towers in the heart of Manhattan, bringing them down in billowing clouds of smoke and dust that shrouded the entire island.

In Washington, another hijacked aircraft crashed into the Pentagon, causing portions of it to collapse as thousands of employees fled.

A heightened state of security quickly followed with the Federal Aviation Administration grounding all domestic flights and diverting international flights to Canada. American military installations worldwide were placed on Threat-Con level Delta, the highest alert status.

In Maryland, the governor declared a state of emergency, schools closed early, the airport and rail systems were shut down, most public activities were postponed or cancelled, and residents were asked to limit the use of telephones, both cellular

and land lines to keep available lines of communication open.

At Aberdeen Proving Ground a Defense Department directive elevated the installation’s protective posture resulting in gate closures in the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas.

George Mercer, APG public affairs officer, said post security personnel worked with the deputy installation commander, Col. Mardi U. Mark, almost immediately, assessing the security situation before the DoD directive came down.

“As a result, it was decided to upgrade the Force Protection Posture, one element which involved closing the Aberdeen and Magnolia gates and limiting access to the installation,” Mercer said.

This led to a manning of the remaining gates by Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security personnel to check identification cards and vehicles, ensuring only those with business on the post were allowed to enter.

By midday Tuesday traffic was backed up at both areas of APG as drivers waited for their turn at the checkpoints.

“As much as we could, we wanted to keep all missions active,” Mercer added, noting that this became more difficult as events around the nation and in Maryland unfolded.

“With the schools closing parents had to go pick up their children,” he said.

Consequently, Mark enacted a liberal leave policy.

“The APG mission is essential to the nation’s defense,” Mercer said. “We want to guarantee our ability to perform our missions, but we also want to ensure the safety and well being of our workers and their families.”

He said that to the best of his knowledge there was no evidence of an immediate threat to APG.

“Bear in mind that security and force protection is not new,” he said. “Our concerns elevated as world situations warranted us to do so.”

The installation will remain at the present threat-con level until DoD lowers it.

APG Provost Marshal Rob Krauer said until further notice, only those with business on the installation will be admitted.

“We are required to search vehicles which leads to lengthy waits that can get ugly as patience wears down,” he said.

Krauer asked that those waiting in line remember that the precautions are for their protection.

“Please be patient and cooperative with the officers on the gates,” Krauer said. “Force protection is paramount in the minds of those who protect our installation, inhabitants and workers. We are doing this for you.”



Officer George Martin, Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security, checks the trunk of a vehicle at the Harford Boulevard gate. Identification checks and vehicle inspections were initiated in the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas following Tuesday morning terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C.



Officer George Martin searches the underside of a car with a mirror before permitting it to enter the installation.



Photos by YVONNE JOHNSON
Officer Amber Vanarkin asks a driver for identification before allowing entry to APG.



Military police Staff Sgt. Barry Lewis directs a bomb-sniffing canine through a vehicle near the front gate -- one of the protective measures taken during the post’s heightened state of alert.



Motorists on Route 22 in Aberdeen wait, some for hours, to gain entry to Aberdeen Proving Ground Tuesday afternoon after the post elevated its security level.